

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-35 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and Claims 21-35 have been added by the present amendment without introducing new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Mohwinkel (U.S. Patent 5,821,815); Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Dougherty (U.S. Patent 5,986,518); Claims 1, 4, 14 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Cazaux et al. (U.S. Patent 5,309,124, herein "Cazaux"); Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Presser (U.S. Patent 4,338,582); Claims 1, 4, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Suematsu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,094,108, herein "Suematsu"); Claims 1, 4, 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Staudinger et al. (U.S. Patent 5,345,123, herein "Staudinger"); and Claims 2, 3, 5-10, 12, 13 and 15-19 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2, 3, 5-10, 12, 13 and 15-19 include allowable subject matter. In light of that indication, new Claims 21-35 are submitted herewith.

New independent Claim 21 includes subject matter of base Claim 1 and subject matter of Claim 2 that was indicated as allowable, new Claim 22 corresponds to Claim 5 and depends on Claim 21, and new Claim 23 corresponds to Claim 8 and depends on Claim 22.

New independent Claim 24 includes subject matter of base Claim 1 and subject matter of Claim 3 that was indicated as allowable, new Claim 25 corresponds to Claim 6 and depends on Claim 24, and new Claim 26 corresponds to Claim 9 and depends on Claim 25.

New independent Claim 27 includes subject matters of base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 4 and subject matter of Claim 7 that was indicated as allowable.

New independent Claim 28 includes subject matter of base Claim 1 and subject matter of Claim 10 that was indicated as allowable.

New independent Claim 29 includes subject matter of base Claim 11 and subject matter of Claim 12 that was indicated as allowable, new Claim 30 corresponds to Claim 15 and depends on Claim 29, and new Claim 31 corresponds to Claim 18 and depends on Claim 30.

New independent Claim 32 includes subject matter of base Claim 11 and subject matter of Claim 13 that was indicated as allowable, new Claim 33 corresponds to Claim 16 and depends on Claim 32, and new Claim 34 corresponds to Claim 19 and depends on Claim 33.

New independent Claim 35 includes subject matters of base Claim 11 and intervening Claim 14 and subject matter of Claim 17 that was indicated as allowable.

Consequently, in light of the prior indication of allowable subject matter, above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and therefore the present application is in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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